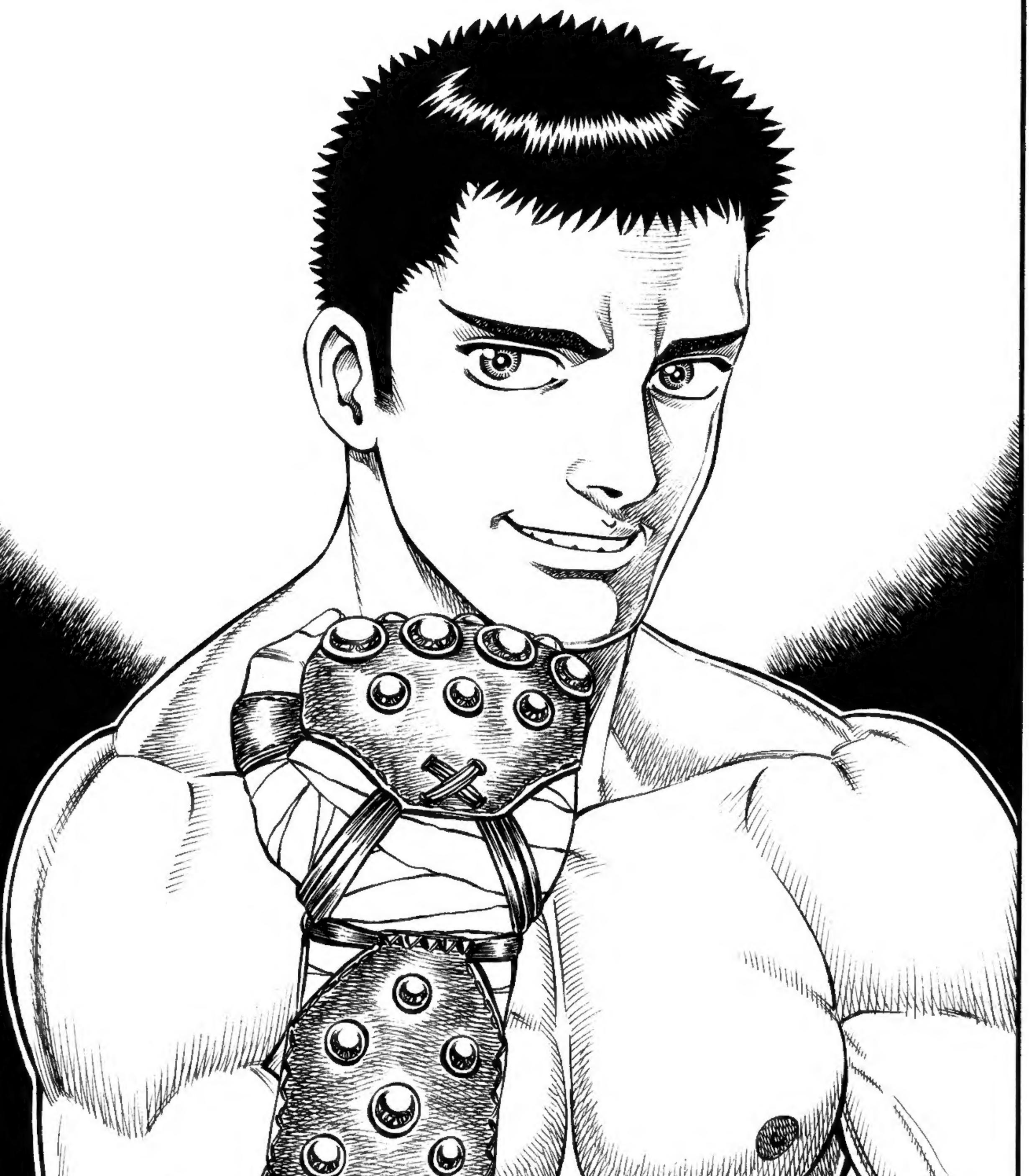

CHAPTER XLV: HOWL

THAT WAS FANTASTIC MISS!

ALRIGHT, GOOD JOB, GOOD JOB!

WITH THINGS LIKE THIS WE'LL RAKE IN TONS!

YOU SHOCKED EVERYONE AND TOOK DOWN CAPUA'S STAR FIGHTER!

//...
//...
//...

ALRIGHT!

NICELY DONE CESTVS.

THAT WAS FINE WORK, YOU PASSED WITH FLYING COLOURS.

AH...

JUST WHAT...

WILL HAPPEN TO HIM NOW?

STILL, THAT SORT OF VETERAN IS COMMON IN THE REGION.

IT WOULD'VE BEEN BAD IF HE'D MANAGED TO GET BACK UP...

I WAS TAKEN ABACK BY HIS STOUT, UNTIRING NATURE.

YOU'VE SOMETHING OF A TENDENCY TO SLUMP COME THE FINAL MOMENTS.

IT SEEMS HE WAS A RATHER POPULAR FIGHTER HERE.

YOU'VE NO NEED TO WORRY, HE WON'T BE EXECUTED.

HE WASN'T A SLAVE BOXER AFTER ALL.

HE'LL HAVE LEARNT WELL ABOUT THE SEVERITY OF VICTORY AND DEFEAT FROM YOU.

THOUGH I IMAGINE HIS RATINGS WILL DROP HAVING LOST TO A KID AND ALL.

IT WAS A FINE WIN ANYONE WOULD BE PROUD OF.

PUFF OUT YOUR CHEST WITH PRIDE.

WHAT'S WRONG CESTVS?

...

ARE YOU FEELING UNWELL AGAIN?

IF YOU CAN DEFEAT YOUR OPPONENT WHO HAS UTTERLY EXHAUSTED THEIR STRENGTH...

YOU NEED NEVER LOOK BACKWARDS.

WHILE THE AUDIENCE MAY DESIRE BRUTAL MATCHES...

BOXING IS NOT SIMPLY A GAME OF MUTUAL DEATH.

IF YOUR FEELINGS OVERCOME YOU AND YOU GROW TIMID, YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO SURVIVE IN THIS WORLD.

TO ADVANCE FROM HERE YOU'LL NEED TO DEFEAT NUMEROUS FOES, SLAVE BOXERS SUCH AS YOURSELF.

YES SIR...

FROM DRISCO'S BOXING TROUPE...

HE HAS A RAGING, DANGEROUS FIST, IT'S RADDOCK!

FROM LEPIDUS' TRAINING SCHOOL...

HIS OPPONENT...

GO ON OUT AND STIR 'EM UP RADDOCK.

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HE'S A STRONG ARM DRIPPING WITH FRESH BLOOD!

IT'S GROTEUS OF THE UNLUCKY FIST!

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THAT'S DIRTY, CAN YOU REALLY FIGHT LIKE THAT?!

UNFORTUNATELY, FIGHTERS LIKE THAT AREN'T UNUSUAL IN THIS REGION.

IF HE TAKES EVEN A SINGLE BLOW IT'LL BE FATAL...!

IT'S DUE TO THE EXISTENCE OF SUCH FOES THAT I FEEL THE NEED TO EMPHASIZE DEFENSIVE SKILLS.

THERE'S A BAD TREND WHEREIN, RATHER THAN TRAIN ONE'S SKILLS, SOME CHOOSE SIMPLY TO USE SUCH ARMAMENTS.

...

RADDOCK'S LOOKING THIS WAY MASTER...

I DON'T THINK HE'S TRYING TO INTIMIDATE HIM THOUGH...

HE'S NOT EVEN LOOKING AT HIS OPPONENT.

ｻﾞﾜｯ

FUCKER, ARE YOU EVEN GONNA FIGHT?!

HOW LONG ARE YOU GONNA LOOK ELSEWHERE FOR?!

TO THE CENTRE!

HUH?!

WELL...

I'LL PLAY WITH YOU PROPERLY.

DON'T GET FLUSTERED NOW, MR. SHITTY METAL ARMS.

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IN THAT CAAAASE!

SWISH.

!

GUUH!

UH...

HE'S SO SKILLED!

AH.

DIDN'T I TELL YOU TO NOT GET FLUSTERED?

BUGOOORGH!

BORGH...

GA...

EH? AH...!

NO, INFACT YOU STILL AIN'T SAID IT.

DID YOU SAY TO "BEGIN"?

OI, REF, START IT AGAIN.

!

EH?!

THAT DIDN'T COUNT JUST NOW.

RIGHT.

WHAT WAS THAT...?

BARGH, HOLD ON A SEC!

BEGIN!

RIGHT, LET'S DO THIS FOR REAL!

TO THINK MASTER WOULD BE SO AMUSED AS TO PRAISE HIM...!

HE'S ONE WHO TAKES THE INITIATIVE RIGHT FROM THE START OF A MATCH.

HE COULDN'T HELP BUT WIN.

HE'S A CUT ABOVE AS AN ACTOR.

KUKUKU.

IS TRULY THE REAL DEAL!

THAT MAN'S STRENGTH...

HE CAN'T FIGHT NO MORE!

LET HIM OFF!

YOU NEEDN'T TRY AND KEEP BLUFFING LIKE THAT.

I AIN'T EVEN HUNGRY FROM THAT!

WHAT A WET FART OF A MATCH THAT WAS EH!

IT SURE WAS SOME ANTICLIMAX!

...

CAN I HELP YOU AT ALL?

IT'S FINE AIN'T IT, IT'S YOUR WIN.

FIRST OFF, IT WASN'T A SURPRISE ATTACK.

THE IDIOT JUST FELL FOR MY TAUNTS.

WELL, THAT'S A MATTER OF EXPERIENCE.

EVEN WHEN YOUR OPPONENT STRUCK YOU BY SURPRISE, YOU MANAGED TO CALMY DEAL WITH HIM...

...

ERM, WELL...

WHAT WAS WITH YOUR ATTITUDE...

SO HE'D THOUGHT IT ALL THROUGH...!

AN ARMED GUY LIKE THAT WOULD BE A RIGHT PAIN IF HE FOUGHT CAUTIOUSLY NO?

I KNEW AT ONCE FROM THAT ENRAGED MUG OF HIS.

!!...

SO IT WAS PART OF YOUR PLAN?

YOUR MASTER.

DON'T YOU KNOW KID?

I'M STILL FAR FROM WHO I WANT TO BE...

IT WAS A KID'S TRICK THOUGH.

LIKE WHO?

ドシ

HEY.

CAN I ASK YOU ONE THING?

JUST WHO...

...

I'VE NEVER SEEN MASTER IN A MATCH...

BY THE TIME I BEGAN BOXING...

MASTER HAD ALREADY INJURED HIS LEG.

MM...

I DON'T...

?!

GONNA BE THAT FAMED MONSTER OF THEIRS.

?

I IM-AGINE IT'S...

IT AIN'T NO ORDINARY FELLOW WHO'D LET A CRY LIKE THIS OUT IN A MATCH.

WHAT'S THAT?!

THIS HOWL?!

HUFF.

HUFF.

HUFF.

CAPUA'S BLACK APE.

AN ODDITY MEANT TO LURE IN CUSTOMERS.

IT'S...

IS HE EVEN HUMAN?

IT... IT'S REAL!

I IMAGINE THEY JUST PASS HIM OFF AS A CURSED DESCENDANT OF SOMEONE FROM THE SERVILLE WARS.

HE'LL HAVE BEEN RAISED IN THE ARENA FOR YEARS.

GNASH.

GNASH.

EVEN SO, HE'S A BOXER.

I THOUGHT IT WAS JUST A MADE UP STORY...

HAHA...

YOU'LL BE FACING HIM!

PEDRO, HERNANDO, GETTY...

GET READY.

BOSS...

U... US...?!

EEEEEEH, NO WAY?!

WAIT!

DON'T COMPLAIN, HURRY UP!

IT'S QUITE GOOD FOR US, THEY DON'T CARE IF EVEN THE THREE OF YOU FIGHT.

WE CAN'T HAVE THEM JUST IDLING AROUND NOW CAN WE?

OI, OI, NOW MASTER...

THEY'RE STILL NOT READY TO FIGHT!

I'VE MUCH MORE LEFT TO TEACH THEM...

THUMP.

THUMP.

THUMP.

ゴク.

IT COULDN'T BE THAT...

HE INTENDS TO ABANDON THESE THREE?!

HE'S A CUNNING MAN, HE WOULDN'T DO THIS IF THERE WAS NO BENEFIT TO HIM.

JUST WHAT IS HE THINK-ING...?!

COME...

PREY...

COME...

CHAPTER XLV: HOWL - END